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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

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TO: The Acting Secretary
FROM: AF - Prudence Bushnell, Acting
SUBJECT: April 29 Update on Rwanda/Burundi

SUMMARY

Following is an update on Rwanda/Burundi.

DISCUSSION

Situation on the Ground

- o RWANDA: Embassy FSNs reported only sporadic gunfire today. Fighting reportedly continues near the airport.
- o BURUNDI: After talks with armed groups in the Kamenge neighborhood broke down last night, the government's National Crisis Committee decided to enter the neighborhood by force. Unarmed civilians were urged by loudspeaker to leave the neighborhood before the security forces entered the area. Despite firing heard throughout the night in Kamenge, downtown Bujumbura is calm today and businesses and markets are open as usual. All American citizens in Burundi are reported safe.

Interim Government Officials in Paris

- o Embassy Paris DCM Bohlen met today with the Foreign Minister of the Rwandan interim government, Jerome Bicamumpaka, and Ministry official (and Hutu extremist) Jean Bosco Barayagwiza and delivered a stern message to stop the killing, put a cease-fire in place, resume peace talks, and allow humanitarian aid to enter Rwanda. She informed them that we would not receive them in Washington. Following the meeting, Embassy Paris issued a press release reiterating the need to stop the killing in Rwanda immediately, and calling for a negotiated settlement under the Arusha framework.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
HARRY R. MELONE

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"94 Rwanda Briefing Papers"

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- o The French flatly turned down the Rwandan interim government Foreign Minister's request for arms sales during his visit to Paris.
- o Meanwhile, the Rwandan Ambassador to Paris charges the interim government with carrying out plans of "ethnic purification." Although recalled to Rwanda, the Ambassador has decided to stay in Paris.

Humanitarian Issues

- o After Rwandan government troops abandoned their positions on the bridge at Rusumo Falls, 300,000 Rwandan refugees were able to cross the border into Tanzania.

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